

# Roman roads and the old trade routes

**Walk:** Mossley Circular  
**Distance:** Five miles.  
**Time:** Three hours at a leisurely pace.  
**Calorie burn:** 400+  
**How do I get there?:** The route starts from the car park near the Royal George pub on the A635.  
**Public transport:** Call GMPTC on 0161 228 7811 for bus details for the area.  
**Parking:** Free parking places at the Royal George if you are planning on having a drink here or in a nearby layby at the junction of the A635 and the B6175.

This is our 15th feature in a series of seasonal articles aimed at encouraging people to get out and about, explore the borough and get healthy in the process. With the help of the Oldham Ramblers' Association, Oldham Council and Countryside Rangers we hope to reintroduce you to the beauty on our own doorstep. This week we skirt around the borough boundary



In our penultimate walk in the series we cross over the border and enter into Mossley for a circular walk taking in the course of the Huddersfield Canal that runs down from Saddleworth and the old Ashton and Oldham railway line.

This is a fairly approachable walk, although a bit longer than the trails of recent weeks. There is a climb at the start, but things soon even out. Enjoy the challenge.

**1** The walk begins at the junction of the A635 and B6175 on the opposite corner to the Royal George. Turn left onto the B6175 from the layby and after walking 100 metres turn left into Shadworth Lane. Follow the lane, which becomes a track alongside a wall. This is a moderately steep climb for 500 metres.

**2** Turn right at the top of the lane into Moor Edge Road and continue on what is said to be an historic route (possibly used by the Romans and also as a 'salt road' from Cheshire). Head up to a junction with a lane joining at an acute angle from the right.

**3** At this junction bear left and then, 20 metres further on, bear half right. (The route directly ahead to Abraham's Chair is marked 'private'.) Still keeping on Moor Edge Road, and

passing below Buckton Castle, follow the lane down to Castle Farm.

**4** At the farm, turn left into Castle Lane and follow the route down for around 400 metres.

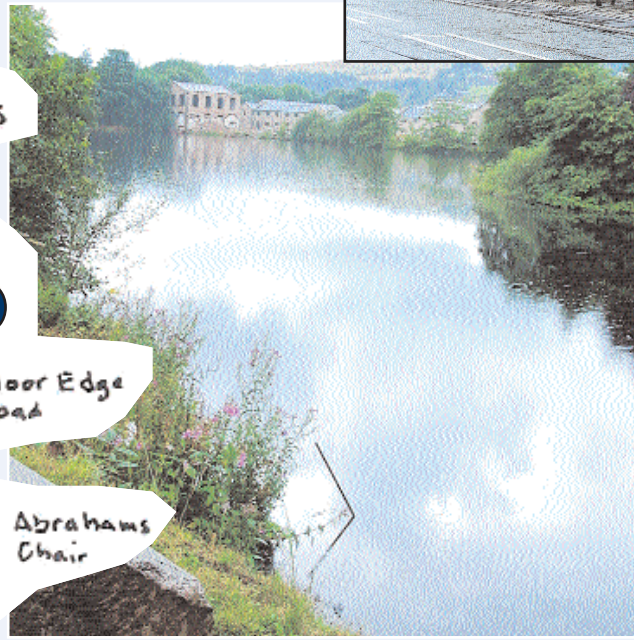
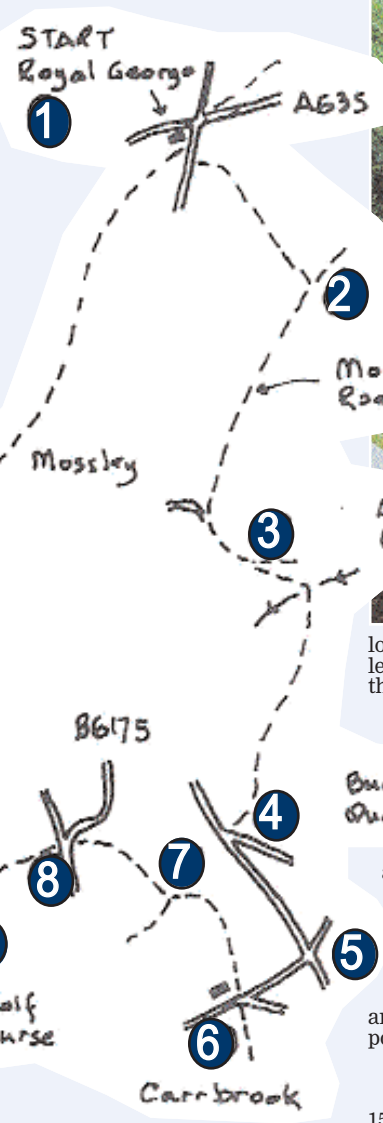
**5** You have now hit a junction which is the meeting of Castle Lane and Carr Rise. Turn right and head along for about 300 metres to another turning on the right.

**6** This is Swallow Lane and you can follow the single track road to the right of the school. Follow this road around the school and past a row of cottages to the junction of two lanes. Take the right fork.

**7** Follow this lane to the junction with the B6175, which is a main road. Cross the main road to a minor road and

**8** At this footpath sign (marked for Scout and Miller Hey) you follow the track, which becomes narrow alongside a wall as it passes between a graveyard on the right and the golf course on the left. At the next footpath junction take the path signposted to Scout, which goes over a fence stile and heads downhill to signpost straight ahead.

**9** At this sign, take the track that is marked for Scout and, around 150 metres, ahead is Kershaw



look for a footpath sign on the left where the road bends to the right.

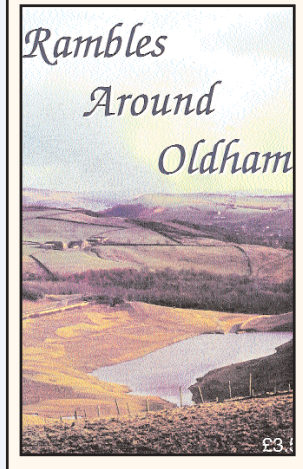
**10** At Kershaw Hey Cottage you continue along the track marked for Scout and 200 metres further ahead, on the right, a signpost to 'Egmont Street via canal' is reached. Take the track on the right, over a stile, for Egmont Street.

**11** Follow the track down and turn right at the lock gates to join a track on the right hand side of the Huddersfield Canal. Follow this canal side track (which is the course of the disused railway) for approximately 1 kilometre. The track goes under two road bridges and, about 100 metres, after the second bridge - having passed an old stone bridge and lock gates -



turn right onto the track that leaves the canal on the right.

**12** Follow this track uphill for about 30 metres, passing through two wooden fence post stiles onto a broad track. Cross over this broad track and pass through another wooden fence post stile adjacent to a gate. Turn left on to a broad and sandy track and you are again on the course of the old railway. Keep on this back to the Royal George.



This week's walk, by John Gilroy, is available in the popular Rambles Round Oldham Book by the local branch of the Ramblers' Association. The book is available from Tourist Information Centres and Ottakers.

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